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PROPOSED REVISION OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE  
SIGMA XI

ARTICLE I

*Name and Object*

- Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be the *Society of the Sigma Xi*; its motto Σπουδῶν Ξυνῶνεξ—Companions in Zealous Research.
- Section 2.* The object of this Society shall be to encourage original investigation in science, pure and applied.

ARTICLE II

*Chapters*

- Section 1.* (a) An Institutional Chapter may be established at any educational institution in which scientific research is cultivated and promoted, or at any research institution which allows the same unrestricted rights of publication as educational institutions, provided that no institution shall be considered unless its permanency is shown to be reasonably assured by private endowment or state support.
- (b) An Alumni Chapter may be established at any place where the objects of the Society would be furthered thereby. **Alumni Chapters have all the rights and privileges of institutional Chapters, except that of electing new members and associates.**

*Section 2.* A petition for a charter for the establishment of a new chapter shall be communicated to the President of the Society, who shall refer it to the Executive Committee of the Society for consideration. When reported by the committee, a three-fourths vote of the convention shall be necessary for authorizing the granting of a charter.

*Section 3.* A charter for the establishment of a new chapter shall be issued by the President immediately after the convention, granting it in the following form:

To whom it may concern. Be it known that a Charter for the establishment of an . . . . . chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi at . . . . . , **to be known as the . . . . . chapter**, is hereby granted to the following persons as Charter Members, conveying to them and their duly elected associates and successors all the privileges conferred by the Constitution of the Society:

.....  
.....

In witness whereof the signatures of the President and Secretary and the seal of the Society are hereunto affixed on this the . . . . . day of . . . . . in the year of our Lord . . . . .

## ARTICLE III

*Membership*

*Section 1. Membership of the Society.* (a) **The Society shall consist of members and associates.**

(b) **The membership of the Society shall be further classified as Chapter Members and Chapter Associates and Alumni Members and Alumni Associates. Chapter Members and Associates shall be those members and associates of the Society who are actively connected with the staff or student body of an institution at which there is a chapter. Alumni members and associates shall be respectively those members and associates of the Society who are not actively connected with an institutional chapter.**

*Section 2. Membership of Chapters.* (a) **The membership of an institutional chapter shall be composed of members and associates of the Society who are actively connected with the staff or student body of the institution; and alumni members and (subject to the restrictions of Section 5 of this article) associates of the Society who, on presenting satisfactory credentials, become affiliated with the chapter. Such alumni members and associates shall have all the duties and privileges respectively of chapter members and associates of the chapter with which they are affiliated, except voting.**

(b) **The membership of an alumni chapter shall be composed of such alumni members and associates of the Society as, by virtue of nearby residence, become affiliated with the chapter.**

*Section 3. Eligibility: Members.* The following, and no others, are eligible to **election** as members in a chapter at any institution: (a) any professor, instructor, **or other member of the staff** of the institution who has shown noteworthy achievement as an original investigator in some branch of pure or applied science; (b) any registered student who, as judged by his actual work of investigation, has exhibited an aptitude for scientific research.

*Section 4. Eligibility: Associates.* Each Chapter shall have the privilege of providing in its by-laws for the election of associates. When a chapter elects to have associates, the following and no others shall be eligible to **election as associates** in that chapter: (a) any graduate student who has shown marked excellence in **one** or more departments of pure or applied science; (b) any student who has completed two and one half years of undergraduate work and who has shown marked excellence in two or more departments of pure or applied science.

*Section 5.* (a) Associates shall have the privileges of members, except the right to vote, with only such other restrictions as are specifically stated in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, or in the by-laws of the chapter.

(b) An associate of any chapter who becomes connected with another institution at which there is a chapter whose by-laws provide for associate membership shall be entitled to enroll as associate therein on presenting satisfactory credentials.

*Section 6. Eligibility: Alumni members (by election).* **The following and no others are eligible to election as alumni members of the Society:** (a) Any graduate of the institution of not less than five years' standing

on the conditions prescribed in (a) of Section 3 of this article; (b) any professor, instructor or investigator, connected with a neighboring educational, scientific, or professional institution not having a chapter, who would otherwise be eligible for membership on the conditions prescribed in (a) of Section 3 of this article; (c) any associate within five years after graduation on the conditions prescribed in (b) of Section 3 of this article. After the expiration of five years associates are subject to the conditions of (a) of this section.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### *Election of New Members and Associates*

*Section 1.* **Members and associates shall be elected only by institutional chapters and only according to the provisions of Section 2 of this article.**

*Section 2.* (a) **Each nomination shall be made in writing and shall present full testimony as to the eligibility of the nominee and shall be signed by at least two members as nominator and seconder. Such written nomination shall be sent to the chapter's recording secretary and by him transmitted to the chapter's president who shall be chairman ex-officio of a committee on nominations, not fewer than five in number, selected by ballot at the annual election of the chapter's officers. Interim vacancies on the committee shall be filled by the committee itself.**

(b) **The committee on nominations shall pass on all nominations duly submitted and shall present to the chapter for election only those nominations that have been approved by the committee.**

(c) **The chapter shall vote on these nominations only and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the chapter members present shall be necessary for election.**

(d) **A chapter having more than twenty-four members may empower its committee on nominations to make elections to membership, in which case a unanimous vote of the committee on nominations shall be necessary for election.**

#### ARTICLE V

##### *Initiation*

*Section 1.* **After election according to the provisions of Article IV both members- and associates-elect shall, before they exercise the privileges of membership, be initiated at such time after the election as the by-laws of each chapter shall designate, according to the form prescribed in Section 2 of this article.**

*Section 2.* (a) **The members- and associates-elect shall be ushered into the presence of the chapter by a marshal or marshals to be appointed by the president for the occasion.**

(b) **The president or his deputy shall explain the aims and objects of the Society.**

(c) **The president shall next read the following pledge, to which each novice shall in turn assent as his name is called: Do you hereby pledge yourself to uphold the principles of the Society of the Sigma Xi, and assume the responsibilities incumbent upon active (or associate) membership therein?**

(d) The president then addressing those who have taken the pledge, shall formally pronounce them admitted to membership in the Society of the Sigma Xi, and shall invite them to sign the Constitution.

(e) Each new member **or associate** shall affix his signature to the Constitution, and shall then receive from the president the certificate of membership.

(f) The president shall present the new members **and associates** to the chapter.

*Section 3.* Should any member- **or associate-elect** be unavoidably absent from the general initiation, he may, at the pleasure of the chapter, be provided with an opportunity to assent to the pledge given in Section 2 (c) and to sign the Constitution, and the president shall then formally admit him to the Society, and present him with the certificate of membership.

*Section 4.* The certificate of membership of this Society shall bear the signatures of the president and secretary of the chapter, and the seal of the Society.

The form of certificate should be as follows:

The Society of the Sigma Xi by this diploma certifies that.....  
was on the.....day of.....in the year.....duly  
elected to active (or associate) membership in the.....chapter of  
the Society of Sigma Xi, and is fully entitled to all privileges granted by its Constitution.

## ARTICLE VI

### *Insignia*

*Section 1.* (a) The badge or symbol to be worn by members of this Society shall be a gold watch-chain pendant, charm, or pin of octagonal shape, bearing the monogram of the Greek letter Sigma, superimposed upon the Greek letter Xi. The monogram may be enameled, or embossed as desired. On the reverse side or back of the badge shall be engraved in the upper line the name of the **chapter** in which the owner was initiated, together with the date of such initiation. Also on the reverse, in the center shall be placed the numeral of the year in which such chapter was chartered. On the lower line shall be the owner's name. Provided that the continued use of the older design of the badge shall be optional with the several chapters.

(b) The badge or symbol to be worn by associates shall be a pin having the Greek letters Sigma and Xi in white on an electric blue ground. On the reverse shall be the associate's name, name of the **chapter in which the associate was initiated**, and the date of **initiation**.

*Section 2.* The colors of this Society shall be electric blue and white.

*Section 3.* The official letter-head shall be the monogram of the Society.

*Section 4.* The Seal shall consist of a wreath of laural, typifying the honorary character of membership in the Society, arranged as an oval enclosing the words "**The Society of the Sigma Xi**" at the top, and the motto Σπουδᾶν Ἐννῶρεξ at the bottom. These words shall form an inner oval concentric with the first, punctuated with ten stars, and enclosing a field illuminated by the lamp of research. Above the lamp in the field of illumination shall be placed the monogram Σ Ξ and below it the date of foundation, 1886.

ARTICLE VII

*Officers of the Society*

*Section 1.* (a) The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of **nine**, of which the President, Secretary, **Treasurer and chairman of the Alumni Committee** shall be *ex officio* members.

(b) The duties of the executive officers and of the Executive Committee of the Society shall be those which usually pertain to the several offices. The Secretary shall hold and preserve all the papers of the Society.

*Section 2.* (a) **There shall be an alumni committee of five elected by the convention from the alumni members of the Society. The term of office of each member shall be five years, one member to retire each year. The senior member of the committee, or some other member chosen by it, shall be its chairman, who shall also be ex officio a member of the Executive Committee of the Society.**

(b) The duties of the Alumni Committee shall be to represent the alumni members of the Society at conventions and in such other ways as may from time to time be advisable.

*Section 3.* (a) The officers of the Society shall be elected at conventions. At least **three months before each annual convention the President of the Society shall appoint a nominating committee of three, one of whom shall be an alumnus member of the Society. This committee shall make at least one nomination for each office to be filled. Election shall be by plurality vote of the convention.**

(b) The terms of office of the President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be two years each. The terms of the elective members of the Executive Committee shall be five years each, one member to retire each year.

ARTICLE VIII

*Conventions*

*Section 1.* A regular convention of the Society, consisting of delegates from each chapter **and from the alumni members of the Society**, shall be held annually at such time and place as determined by the Executive Committee of the Society, due notice being given to each chapter, **and to alumni members through the official Journal of the Society.**

*Section 2. Delegates.* (a) Each chapter in good standing shall be entitled to a representation of not more than three delegates at each convention. **The members of the alumni committee shall be ex officio delegates representing the alumni members of the Society.**

(b) The delegates representing any chapter shall be chosen from its **chapter** members; except that in case any chapter shall be unable to send its own members, it may appoint members of any other chapter as its representatives.

(c) In convention each chapter represented **and each member of the alumni committee** shall have one vote.

*Section 3. Quorum.* The **accredited** delegates present at a duly called meeting, shall constitute a quorum at a convention.

## ARTICLE IX

*Dues and Expenses*

**Section 1.** (a) **Members and associates belonging to or affiliated with a chapter shall pay to the chapter such annual dues as may be provided in the chapter by-laws.**

(b) Any **chapter member or associate** in arrears for one year shall be duly notified of this fact by the secretary of the chapter, and in event of failure to respond within six weeks may be suspended from **chapter** membership in the Society. On payment of arrearage he may be reinstated by vote of the chapter. If such reinstatement is not effected in one year his name shall be deleted from the rolls of the **chapter**. **Thereby he becomes automatically an alumnus member or associate.**

**Section 2.** **Alumni members and associates shall contribute to the support of the Society in such ways as may be mutually agreed upon by the Executive Committee and the alumni committee. All sums so collected shall be separately accounted by the treasurer of the Society and shall be known as the alumni fund.**

**Section 3.** **In the initiation fee of each newly elected member or associate the chapter shall include the sum of one dollar for the general treasury of the Society, to be collected by the chapter treasurer and forwarded by him to the treasurer of the Society.**

**Section 4.** **The expenses of the Society shall be met by assessments on the several chapters and on the alumni fund in such ratio as may be mutually agreed upon by the Executive Committee and the alumni committee. Such assessments shall be authorized, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee by vote of the convention. The assessment on the chapters shall be met by a pro rata levy on each chapter on the basis of its membership, including associates and affiliated alumni members?**

## ARTICLE X

*Amendments*

This Constitution may be altered or amended at a convention by a two-thirds vote of the convention, provided such amendment has been proposed at the preceding convention or shall have been submitted by any chapter to the several chapters through the Executive Committee not less than ninety days prior to the date of the next coming convention. **The publication of such proposed amendment in the official Journal of the Society shall be adequate and full notice as required by the terms of this article.**

## ARTICLE XI

*By-Laws*

Conventions may make such by-laws not in conflict with this Constitution, as may be necessary for the proper government of the Society. Such by-laws shall become operative when confirmed by a majority vote of the convention.

## APPENDICES

(Appendices I-IX, inclusive, consisting of extracts from the Society's convention records and bearing on matters of general policy and administration, will be included here.)

APPENDIX X

Extract of Records of St. Louis Convention (1919).

*Resolved*, That the establishment of chapters in research centers in foreign institutions, being within the provisions of the Constitution of the Society is a desirable development in the efforts of Sigma Xi to encourage the spirit of fellowship in research.

APPENDIX XI

The following are recognized as special functions of the Society in fulfilment of the object stated in Article I, Section 2 of this constitution:

(a) The holding of meetings for the discussion of scientific subjects; (b) the establishment of fraternal relations among investigators in the scientific centers; (c) the granting of membership to such students as have, during their college course, given special promise of future achievement; (d) the publication of such scientific matter as may be deemed desirable; and (e) **the supporting of fellowships for research.**

**The functions of the several chapters shall be mainly those connected with (a), (b), (c) and (d). The functions of the alumni membership of the Society shall be mainly those connected with (b), (d) and (e).**

APPENDIX XII

**The alumni fund shall be used primarily for the support of fellowships. Its administration shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee, which through the official Journal of the Society, shall make a report annually, of all receipts and disbursements.**

BY-LAWS

*I. Conventions of the Society*

1. At the conventions of the Society, the order of business shall be the following:

- (a) Appointment by the President of three members to serve as a Committee on Credentials.
- (b) Report of the Committee on Credentials.
- (c) Reading of the proceedings of the last convention, unless these have been previously printed in the official Journal of the Society.
- (d) Reports of officers.
- (e) Reports from chapters.
- (f) Reports of committees.
- (g) General business.
- (h) Election of officers.
- (i) Adjournment.

2. The regular order of business may be suspended by a three-fourths **vote of the convention.**

3. The appointment of each **chapter** delegate to a convention shall be certified to by the President or Secretary of the chapter appointing him.

4. The expenses of delegates shall be provided by the chapter sending them.

5. The convention may designate an assistant secretary to keep the minutes of the meeting.



*II. Officers of the Society*

1. The terms of the officers of the Society shall begin immediately after **the close of the convention at which they were elected** and continue for **the terms specified in the Constitution**, or until their successors are elected. In case of vacancies, the Executive Committee shall designate officers to act until the next meeting of the convention.

2. Any vacancy caused by disability of, or resignation of the Secretary, or Treasurer, shall be temporarily filled by an appointment by the President until such office is filled by vote of the convention.

3. The expenses of the Secretary of the Society in attending the annual convention shall be paid from the Treasury of the Society.

*III. Executive Committee*

1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to consider and make recommendations on the granting of charters as provided for in Article II, Section 3, on the basis of the following considerations:

In determining the award of a charter to an institution a close scrutiny shall be given to the facilities and opportunities of the institution for the advancement and encouragement of original research in science, and to the qualifications of its scientific faculty to accomplish these ends. **(See also Appendix IX.)**

2. On call of the President of Sigma Xi, the Executive Committee shall hold annually at least one stated meeting, independent of other organizations, and the expenses of those in attendance shall be paid from the National Treasury of Sigma Xi.